

Section 7

Residential

7.1 Purpose

The purpose of the residential component is to implement BMPs to improve the quality of stormwater runoff from residential areas. The residential program element is focused on pollution prevention for the following residential activities:

- Private vehicle washing and maintenance;
- Use of chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides and paints;
- Private swimming pool maintenance;
- Other types of household and landscape maintenance; and
- Use of safe substitutes for materials presently used.

7.2 Residential Program

The permittees propose to continue existing activities to reduce or eliminate pollutant discharges from residential sources. In addition to public education programs, which are discussed in Section 8, the residential program elements described in the following sections will be implemented.

7.2.1 Vehicle Washing and Maintenance

This program element encompasses activities conducted by individuals that involve discharge of pollutants such as vehicle fluids, including motor oil, soaps, and other auto-related pollutants. These sources of residential pollutant will be addressed on an area-wide basis according to the following practices:

- Household hazardous waste round-ups and drop-off centers;
- Used motor oil collection centers for recycling used oil; and
- Public education.

7.2.2 Landscaping

This program element encompasses residential activities that involve the use of chemicals such as herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. It also encompasses landscape waste and excess irrigation. Source control BMPs for this program element include the public education program, which targets all such activities on an area-wide basis and encourages residents to use alternative (non-polluting) products, proper disposal of landscape wastes, and avoiding excessive irrigation. In addition, the city of Ontario provides compost bins, and the cities of Fontana, Highland, Ontario, and Upland have curbside pickup of green waste. Big Bear requires tree clearing contractors to chip and compost all tree waste.

As part of the public education program, the Public Education Subcommittee will target information displays for alternative products at major retail outlets that carry gardening supplies (point-of-purchase). Displays will include fact sheets and/or brochures that describe: the possible impacts to stormwater that can result from using toxic materials; provide listings of non-toxic alternative products; and provide tips for proper disposal of leftovers when toxic materials are used (also, see Section 8, Public Information and Participation).

7.2.3 Home Maintenance

This program element encompasses homeowners' improper disposal (or use) of such toxic materials as paints, thinners, strippers, varnishes, and insecticides. Two primary BMPs that address these activities for all permittees are household hazardous waste round-ups and drop-off centers, and public education encouraging alternative (non-polluting) products and/or proper disposal.

The public education effort is a partnership with home improvement stores, garden centers, nurseries, paint stores, and hardware stores. The effort includes point-of-purchase displays at major retail outlets, to inform residents of non-toxic alternative products and proper disposal methods for leftover toxic materials, and the training of retail store employees on proper disposal of paint, pesticides and fertilizers. Direct training of store employees expands the public outreach effort by providing pollution prevention information that the employees can pass on to customers.

San Bernardino County has implemented an area-wide household hazardous waste collection program with several permanent collection points throughout the permit area and temporary "mobile" collection facilities that are used for local household hazardous waste "round-ups." Many of the Co-Permittees participate in the County program and some also operate their own household hazardous waste program. The Co-Permittees will continue to implement the existing household hazardous waste programs.

7.2.4 Illegal Dumping

This program element encompasses the full array of activities by residents that involve discharge of objects or materials into storm drains, gutters, catch basins, or anywhere rainfall or runoff could carry the materials into the storm drain system. The related pollutants include objects that are part of general littering, as well as large household items and toxic materials. The BMPs that will be continued to reduce or eliminate illegal dumping include: public education, conducted in an integrated fashion by all permittees; the storm drain inlet storm drain stenciling program; the 24-hour hotline number for reporting illegal dumping activities; catch basin cleaning; and street sweeping (see Sections 3, 6 and 8 for additional information on applicable BMPs).

7.2.5 Pet Ownership

This program element refers to improper disposal of fecal matter from pets, primarily in public areas (streets, parks). The area-wide public education program will continue to be the primary method for addressing this activity. On a regulatory level, County ordinance prohibits owners from allowing their dogs to defecate in many public areas.

7.2.6 Swimming Pool/Spa Maintenance

Swimming pool and spa maintenance activities can result in discharges of chlorine, algaecides, and other chemicals. Programs already in place, such as public education and ordinances requiring dechlorination prior to discharge, will be continued.

7.3 Performance Commitments

The permittees propose to implement the following performance commitments to implement the program elements established to address residential sources of stormwater pollutants:

- 7-1. The Management Committee, with guidance from the Public Education Subcommittee, will coordinate public education for residential sources that is consistent with Section 8, Program Information and Participation.
- 7-2. The Management Committee, with guidance from the Public Education Subcommittee, will continue to support outreach efforts to retail businesses that sell potentially toxic gardening products, fertilizers, and household maintenance materials, such as paint.
- 7-3. The permittees will continue to rely on the San Bernardino County area-wide household hazardous waste collection program or other similar local programs to minimize stormwater pollutants from residential sources.
- 7-4. The permittees will continue the use of a 24-hour hotline to provide a mechanism for reporting illegal dumping.